

REMARKS

Following entry of the amendment above, only new claims 85-203 will be pending, as all previously pending claims are canceled thereby. Each of the new independent claims represents a previously pending dependent claim that was indicated in the Office action as containing allowable subject matter that, if rewritten in independent form, would be allowable. Specifically, new claim 85 represents the combination of previously pending claims 1, 2, and 4; new claim 111 combines previously pending claims 1, 2, and 6; new claim 137 melds previously pending claims 1, 2, and 7; new claim corresponds to previously pending claims 1 and 12; and new claim 179 represents the combination of previously pending claims 1 and 31. Applicants have also added a series of new dependent claims after each of the new independent claims. Each series largely corresponds to the others, albeit with different dependency. Moreover, each new dependent claim largely corresponds to one or more of the previously pending dependent claims.

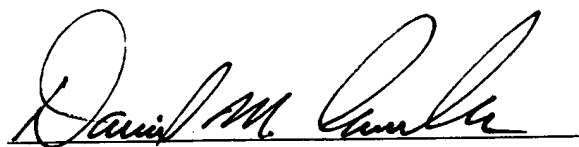
Applicants have amended their claims not for purposes of patentability, but to advance prosecution of certain commercially significant embodiments of their pioneering invention. As these new claims represent a subset of the subject matter that was pending previously, Applicants respectfully submit that the amendment does not introduce new matter. Furthermore, each of the new claims is fully supported by the specification and claims as originally filed. That said, Applicants reserve the right to later prosecute in this or a related application claims directed to subject matter no longer or not yet claimed herein.

Reconsideration of the new claims is respectfully requested. Since these claims embody subject matter that was previously indicated as being allowable, their entry will obviate each of the various objections and rejections presented in the Office action. Accordingly, Applicants request issuance of a notice of allowance with regard to claims 85-203. Of course, should any further action be required on Applicants' behalf in order to advance this application to

allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned if doing so could preclude the need for an additional formal action and response thereto.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 1 July 2004

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel M. Chambers", written over a horizontal line.

By:
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